

Remarks

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of present amendment. For instance, Applicants have clarified the scope of the “varnish” according to claim 1 and have specifically addressed the issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph raised by the Examiner. Similar amendments have been made to claims 12, 17, 18 and 20. Lastly, claim 8 has been clarified to indicate a high-molecular “weight” dispersant and a high-molecular “weight” compound. None of the above amendments are narrowing in nature and serve to remove any issues with respect to indefiniteness. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants further submit that no new issues have been raised by way of the present submission. For instance, Applicants have simply clarified the scope of the present claims in order to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As such, these amendments are entitled to entry.

In the event that the present submission does not place the application into condition for allowance, entry thereof is respectfully solicited as placing the application into better form for appeal.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 12, 17, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In essence, the Examiner has asserted that the flame retardant recited in the claims is unclear and requires clarification. Applicants traverse and submit that the claims have been amended in order to address this issue. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1-4 and 6-25 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being obvious over claims 1, 4-9, 13, 32-36 and 40 of co-pending Application No. 10/398,284 (the '284 application). Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants point out that the '284 application has now matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,160,609 and is assigned to Zeon Corporation (see recordation at Reel 014299, Frame 0077 on April 10, 2003).

Attached hereto, Applicants provide a Terminal Disclaimer directed to U.S. Patent No. 7,160,609. As such, this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie (Reg. No. 42,874) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer